

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-70.
- After this Response: Claims 1-70.

Canceled claims: none.

Amended claims: none.

New claims: Claim 70.

Pending claims are listed as follows:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

describing one or more software extensions using descriptions, the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software platform executing on a client; and

delivering the descriptions of the one or more extensions to the client via a network, the descriptions being configured for use in downloading the software extensions via the network;

said acts of describing and delivering being configured to enable software to be delivered over the network.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptions comprise a tag-based, hierarchical language.

1 4. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptions
2 comprise XML descriptions.

3
4 5. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein:
5 the network comprises the Internet; and
6 descriptions comprise XML descriptions.

7
8 6. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
9 extensions are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of the
10 software platform, the context-based changes being associated with the computing
11 context of a user.

12
13 7. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
14 platform is configured to provide a single application program having multiple
15 different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish multiple different
16 tasks.

17
18 8. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 7, wherein the software
19 extensions are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of one
20 or more of the multiple different functionalities that change the manner in which a
21 user can accomplish a task associated with a particular functionality.

22
23 9. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
24 extensions provide user interface elements.
25

1 **10. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
2 extensions provide behaviors, components, or objects.

3
4 **11. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
5 extensions provide store elements.

6
7 **12. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
8 extensions provide user-defined elements.

9
10 **13. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
11 extensions provide one or more of the following:

12 user interface elements;

13 behaviors, components, or objects;

14 store elements; and

15 user-defined elements.

16
17 **14. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein at least one
18 extension provides an ability to add new points of extensibility.

19
20 **15. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the describing of the
21 one or more software extensions comprises describing the extensions using an
22 extension description file (EDF) comprising an XML file that describes a logical
23 attachment to the software platform.

1 **16. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the
2 descriptions contains an implementation of all or part of the functionality of an
3 extension.

4
5 **17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** One or more computer-readable
6 media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
7 computer system, cause the computer system to:

8 describe one or more software extensions using extensible markup
9 language (XML), the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software
10 platform comprising a single application program, the single application program
11 having multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish
12 multiple different tasks; and

13 deliver XML descriptions of the one or more extensions to the client via the
14 Internet, the descriptions being configured for use in downloading the software
15 extensions via the Internet;

16 wherein causing said computer system to describe one or more extensions
17 and deliver XML descriptions enables software to be delivered over the Internet.

18
19 **18. (ORIGINAL)** A method for delivering software via a network
20 comprising:

21 describing one or more software extensions using one or more descriptive
22 files, the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software program
23 executing on a client;

24 associating the one or more descriptive files with one or more associated
25 extension files that are useable to provide a program functionality;

1 storing the descriptive files and associated extension files in a network-
2 accessible location; and

3 delivering the descriptive files and the associated extension files of the one
4 or more extensions to the client via a network.

5
6 **19. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein said describing
7 comprises describing individual software extensions with at least one XML file,
8 including a description of a logical attachment to the software program, and a
9 description of one or more physical files and/or resources that are used in a
10 software extension.

11
12 **20. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the software
13 extensions are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of the
14 software application, the context-based changes being associated with the
15 computing context of a user.

16
17 **21. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the software
18 program comprises multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to
19 accomplish multiple different tasks, the one or more software extensions being
20 configured to make context-based changes in the operation of one or more of the
21 different functionalities that change the manner in which a user can accomplish a
22 task associated with a particular functionality.

1 **22. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 21, wherein the software
2 program comprises a single navigable window that can be navigated by a user
3 between the different functionalities.

4
5 **23. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
6 software extensions provide user interface elements.

7
8 **24. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
9 software extensions provide behaviors, components, or objects.

10
11 **25. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
12 software extensions provide store elements.

13
14 **26. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
15 software extensions provide user-defined elements.

16
17 **27. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
18 software extensions provide one or more of the following:

19 user interface elements;

20 behaviors, components, or objects;

21 store elements; and

22 user-defined elements.
23
24
25

1 **28. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
2 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
3 implement the method of claim 18.

4
5 **29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A method comprising:
6 storing one or more extension definition files (EDFs) that describe a logical
7 attachment to a software application program;
8 storing one or more extension files that correspond to the one or more
9 EDFs and extend the software application program;
10 delivering, via a network, at least one EDF to a client; and
11 delivering, via the network, at least one extension file that corresponds to
12 the at least one EDF to a client;
13 both of said acts of storing and both of said acts of delivering enabling
14 software to be delivered over the network.

15
16 **30. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein the EDFs are
17 defined in a hierarchical language.

18
19 **31. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein the network
20 comprises the Internet.

21
22 **32. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein said acts of storing
23 are accomplished by hosting said files with an Internet server.

1 **33. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein the EDFs comprise
2 XML files.

3
4 **34. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 33, wherein the XML files
5 comprise predefined tags that are associated with feature types that are to be added
6 to the application program.

7
8 **35. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the
9 predefined tags correspond to user interface elements.

10
11 **36. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the
12 predefined tags correspond to services which can be behaviors, components, or
13 objects.

14
15 **37. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the
16 predefined tags correspond to store elements.

17
18 **38. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein the XML files
19 comprise user-defined tags that are associated with user-defined features that are
20 to be added to the application program.

21
22 **39. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
23 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
24 implement the method of claim 29.

25

1 **40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A data structure embodied on a
2 computer-readable medium comprising:

3 a first sub-structure indicative of a software extension that is to be
4 incorporated in a software application program;

5 one or more second sub-structures associated with the first sub-structure
6 and indicating feature types that are added by the extension to the application
7 program; and

8 one or more third sub-structures associated with the one or more second
9 sub-structures and indicating features of an associated feature type that are added
10 by the extension.

11
12 **41. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or
13 more second sub-structures are children of the first sub-structures.

14
15 **42. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or
16 more third sub-structures are children of the one or more second sub-structures.

17
18 **43. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or
19 more second sub-structures are children of the first sub-structures, and the one or
20 more third sub-structures are children of the one or more second sub-structures.

21
22 **44. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the sub-
23 structures comprise XML tags.

1 **45. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the feature
2 types comprise one or more of the following feature types:

3 user interface elements;

4 behaviors, components, or objects;

5 store elements; and

6 user-defined elements.

7
8 **46. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the data
9 structure comprises an open XML schema that can be extended.

10
11 **47. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the data
12 structure comprises an open XML schema that can be extended by third parties.

13
14 **48. (ORIGINAL)** A method of delivering software via a network
15 comprising:

16 navigating to a network site that maintains at least one software application
17 program; and

18 downloading a software application program from the network site, the
19 application program comprising multiple different functionalities that can assist a
20 user in accomplishing different tasks, the software application program being
21 configured to be extended with software extensions that are deliverable via a
22 network and are described by at least one network-deliverable file.

1 **49. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 48, wherein the application
2 program comprises a single navigable window that can be navigated by a user
3 between the multiple different functionalities.

4
5 **50. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 48 further comprising extending
6 the software application program by adding at least one extension to the
7 application program.

8
9 **51. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 50, wherein said extending
10 comprises:

11 using a link to navigate to a different network site that hosts one or more
12 XML files that describe the extension, and extension files that are used to
13 implement the extension; and

14 downloading the one or more XML files and the extension files to a client.

15
16 **52. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 51, wherein one of the XML
17 files comprises a file that logically describes an extension, and one of the XML
18 files comprises a file that describes the extension files.

19
20 **53. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 51, wherein the link is stored in
21 a user preference.

22
23 **54. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
24 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
25 cause the computer to:

1 navigate to a network site that maintains at least one software application
2 program;

3 download a software application program comprising multiple different
4 functionalities that can assist a user in accomplishing different tasks, the software
5 application program being configured to be extended with software extensions that
6 are deliverable via the network and described by at least one network-deliverable
7 file; and

8 extend the software application program by adding at least one extension to
9 the application program, the extension being added by using a link to navigate to a
10 different network site that hosts one or more files that describe the extension, and
11 extension files that are used to implement the extension and downloading the one
12 or more files and the extension files to a client.

13
14 **55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A method comprising:

15 accessing a Web site through which one or more software extensions can be
16 obtained and through use of which software can be delivered;

17 receiving at least one file that describes at least one software extension
18 using a hierarchical language that describes the software extension's logical
19 attachment to a software application program;

20 receiving one or more software extension files; and

21 installing the one or more software extension files based, at least in part, on
22 the description contained in said at least one file.

1 **56. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, wherein the hierarchical
2 language that describes the software extension's logical attachment comprises a
3 tag-based language.

4
5 **57. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, wherein the hierarchical
6 language that describes the software extension's logical attachment comprises
7 extensible markup language (XML).

8
9 **58. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, wherein said installing
10 comprises doing so without manipulating a client registry or any registry keys that
11 are permanently persisted on the client machine.

12
13 **59. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, further comprising
14 determining whether an update to a software extension is available and, if so,
15 receiving update extension files.

16
17 **60. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 59, wherein said determining
18 comprises polling an extension catalog.

19
20 **61. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 59, wherein said determining
21 comprises polling an extension catalog comprising an XML file.

22
23 **62. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
24 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
25 cause the computer to implement the method of claim 55.

1
2 **63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A method comprising:
3 describing one or more software extensions using one or more extensible
4 markup language (XML) files, the extensions being configured for incorporation
5 in a software program executing on a client;
6 associating the one or more XML files with one or more associated
7 extension files that are useable to provide a program functionality; and
8 storing the XML files and associated extension files in a network-accessible
9 location;
10 said acts of describing and associating being configured to provide software
11 for delivery over the network.

12
13 **64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A network site comprising:
14 one or more software extension files configured to be incorporated into a
15 software application program, the software extension files being configured to
16 allow delivery of software via a network; and
17 one or more files associated with the one or more software extension files
18 and describing the extension files, the one or more files describing a logical
19 attachment of the one or more software extension files to the software application
20 program.

21
22 **65. (ORIGINAL)** The network site of claim 64, wherein the
23 hierarchical language comprises extensible markup language (XML).
24
25

1 **66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A method of managing network-
2 based software extensions comprising:

3 grouping multiple software extension descriptions in a catalog in a
4 network-accessible location to enable delivery of software via a network;

5 accessing the network-accessible location; and

6 using the catalog to update a software extension that is resident on a
7 computing device.

8
9 **67. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 66 further comprising querying
10 the catalog to ascertain an extension description.

11
12 **68. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 66 further comprising querying
13 the catalog based on a user's personal setting.

14
15 **69. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 66, wherein the extension
16 descriptions are defined in XML.

17
18 **70. (New)** A method comprising:
19 describing one or more software extensions using an extension definition
20 file comprising an XML file that logically describes an extension, the extension
21 definition file having an open schema that can permit the software extensions to be
22 extended, the extension definition file having one or more predefined tags
23 individual ones of which being associated with feature types of a software
24 extension, the schema having an outer encompassing tag having one or more of
25 the following attributes: a urn attribute that identifies an extension, a name

1 attribute that can be used in a user-visible display, a version attribute that describes
2 a version number for the extension, an update attribute that describes when an
3 extension definition file was modified last, and a description attribute that
4 describes an associated extension, the extensions being configured for
5 incorporation in a software platform executing on a client; and

6 delivering the extension definition file to the client via a network, the
7 extension definition files being configured for use in downloading associated
8 software extensions via the network;

9 said acts of describing and delivering being configured to enable software
10 to be delivered over the network.